

## Predisposing factors for substance abuse among elderly people referring to Qazvin addiction treatment centers, Iran (2017)

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### \*Abstract

**Background:** Drug abuse is one of the most important global issue that has become a psychological, social, and family disaster

**Objective:** The present study was aimed to determine the causes of substance abuse in the elderly.

**Methods:** In this descriptive cross-sectional study, 120 addicted elderly people referred to addiction treatment centers of Qazvin, Iran were selected by convenience sampling in 2017. The demographic and researcher-made substance abuse tendency questionnaires were applied for data collection. Data were analyzed by descriptive statistics including frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation.

**Findings:** The mean age and age of the onset of drug abuse were  $58.83 \pm 8.91$  and  $34.44 \pm 13.37$  years, respectively. The majority of the elderly were male (113 subjects, 94.1%), and 102 (85.1%) elders were married. Opium was the most common abused drug (75.8%) and more than half of them (64.2%) experienced drug discontinuation. Environmental factors were the important reason of intendancy towards drug abuse among elderly people.

**Conclusion:** In this study, the most important reason of drug abuse in the elderly people was environmental factors that were consisted; easy access to drug, lack of sports and recreational facilities and the presence of addicted friends.

**Keywords:** Aging, Drug abuse, Addiction, Opium

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